

ABSTRACT

Nurhayati, Dewi. 2012. *The Life of Afghan Women as Reflected in Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Final Project, English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. First advisor: Fatma Hetami, S.S., M.Hum. Second advisor: Rini Susanti Wulandari, S.S., M. Hum

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This final project is about the life of Afghan women as reflected in Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The aim of this study is to find out how the life of Afghan women is as described by the main characters.

I employ Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* as the object of this study. This study is a descriptive qualitative study with *feminism* as the approach. It is descriptive qualitative since the data of the study are in the form of words, phrases, sentences, narrations and dialogues and I do not employ computation. The data were gained by reading the novel thoroughly, identifying, inventorying, classifying, analyzing, and reporting. The analysis was done by several techniques including exposing, explaining and interpreting.

The results indicate that, first, it is about the general pictures of Mariam and Laila. In the novel Mariam is described as woman who is not beautiful, does not have worldly knowledge, has no friend and tends to be uncommunicative person, but she is kind and obedient. While, Laila, she is beautiful, smart, brave, strong, never gives up, and an optimistic person. Second, the external and internal conflicts that are faced by Mariam and Laila. Mariam's external conflicts are Mariam's father refusal to acknowledge her existence, injustice treatment, forced marriage, abusive husband, poligamy, killing her husband to save Laila's life. The internal conflict is the word harami that always annoys her. While, Laila's external conflicts are the death of her parents, the loss of the boy she loves, abusive husband, painful treatment, separation of mother and daughter. The internal conflict is lack of affection from her mother. Third, both female characters experienced discriminations in the aspects of social and education. In social life, Mariam and Laila must undergo young marriage, polygamy, and also the ability to bear children, especially boys. In educational, there are two kinds of education; the religious education that is faced by Mariam, and formal education that is faced by Laila.

In the end, this study is expected to give additional knowledge to the readers about the life of Afghan women that may be useful as an additional reference to the study of literature. I hope that there will be other students who want to do some other researches about the life of Afghan women and its impact in literature.